

# Chapter 3: Status and Management

Deer hunter numbers (including both species) average a sparse 1.5 per square mile, although individual GMUs can range to 8 hunters per square mile. Currently, about 17,000 white-tailed deer are harvested annually in Idaho, almost entirely in the northern third of the state. Bucks comprise 64% of the harvest with mature bucks being common. Currently, 23% of the antlered harvest has at least 5 antler points on the right antler,

For data analysis purposes, Idaho was grouped into 7 Data Analysis Units based on population characteristics, ecological issues, and local management considerations. Overall, Idaho can be generalized as predominantly public-owned, with a wide range of terrain, land uses, habitat types, and road densities (see Table 1; Figures 2, 3, 4, and 5).

Most white-tailed deer populations are found in DAUs 1-3, located in the northern part of the state. DAUs 4-7 encompass habitat with sparse white-tailed deer populations.

Table 1. Characteristics of Data Analysis Units (DAUs), 2004.

	Data Analysis Unit						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Private Ownership	36%	17%	74%	<1%	26%	25%	34%
Major Land Use	Forest	Forest	Agric.	Forest	Range	Forest	Range
Potential Forest	94%	93%	49%	96%	20%	61%	4%
Roadless	4%	24%	3%	86%	35%	31%	12%
Hunter Density	3.2	1.5	3.1	0.6	1.3	2.2	0.8
Harvest Density	0.8	0.4	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
WT Success Rate	26%	23%	43%	5%	2%	1%	1%
Days per harvested white-tailed deer	23	20	13	123	219	555	748
Antlered: % with 5+ antler points	24%	17%	25%	21%	19%	5%	14%

## Statewide Management Direction

Based on the opinion survey (see Appendix I), hunter satisfaction is high for the number of days of white-tailed deer hunting opportunity offered under existing hunting seasons, the opportunity to harvest a white-tailed deer, and the opportunity to harvest a mature white-tailed deer buck. The intent of this plan is to continue management that results in high hunter satisfaction. Another survey will be conducted prior to 2010 to reassess hunter satisfaction. Management direction is to provide minimums of 35,000 hunters with 207,000 days of recreation and the opportunity to harvest at least 8,700 white-tailed deer bucks, of which at least 15% have 5 or more points on either antler.

## Objectives and Status

Criterion	Minimum	3-Year Average
Hunters	35,000	43,944
Hunter-days of recreation	207,000	259,052
Buck harvest	8,700	10,900
% 5+ points	15%	23%

Figure 2. Topography of white-tailed deer Data Analysis Units in Idaho.

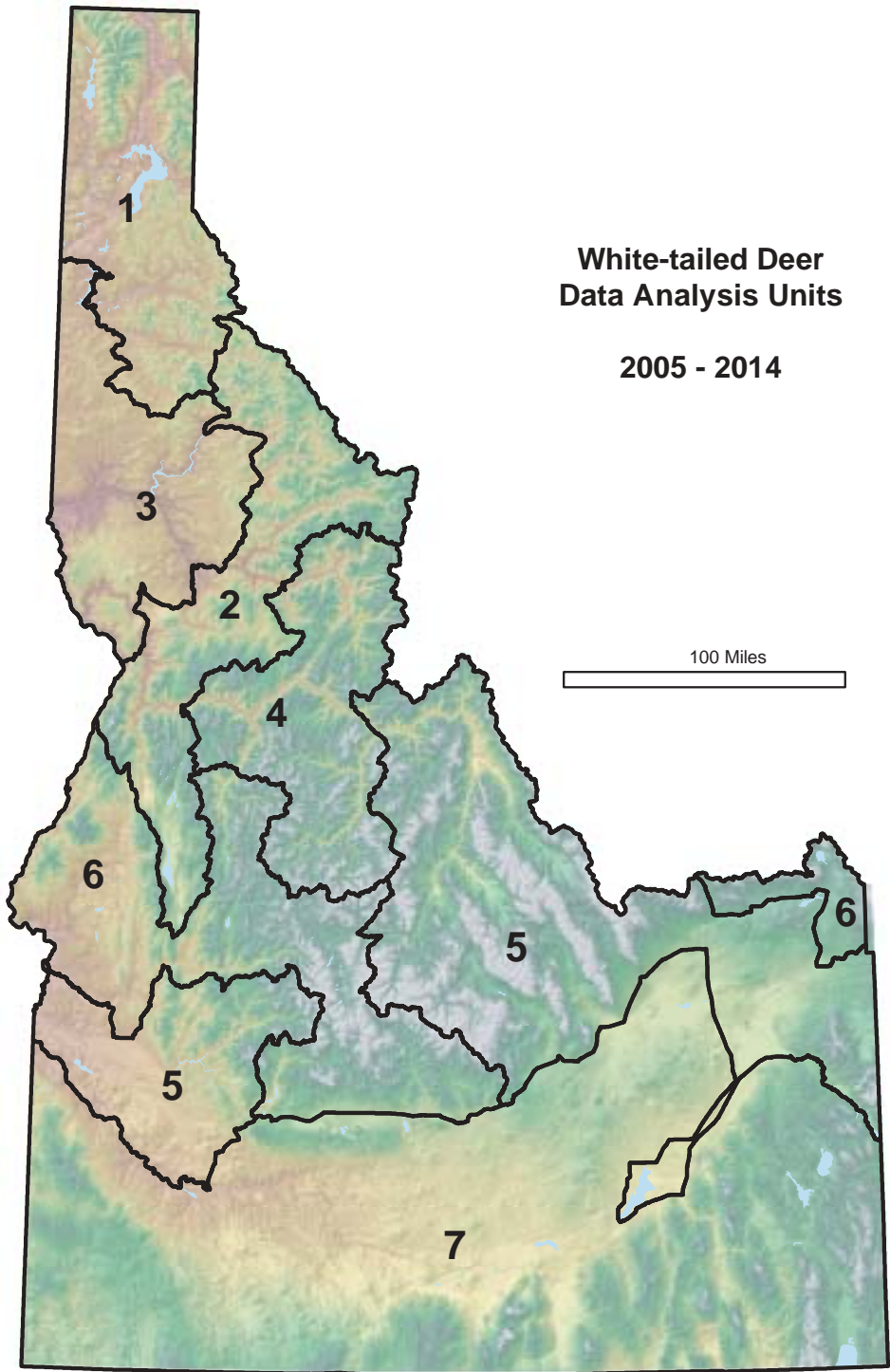


Figure 3. Land ownership patterns of white-tailed deer DAUs in Idaho.

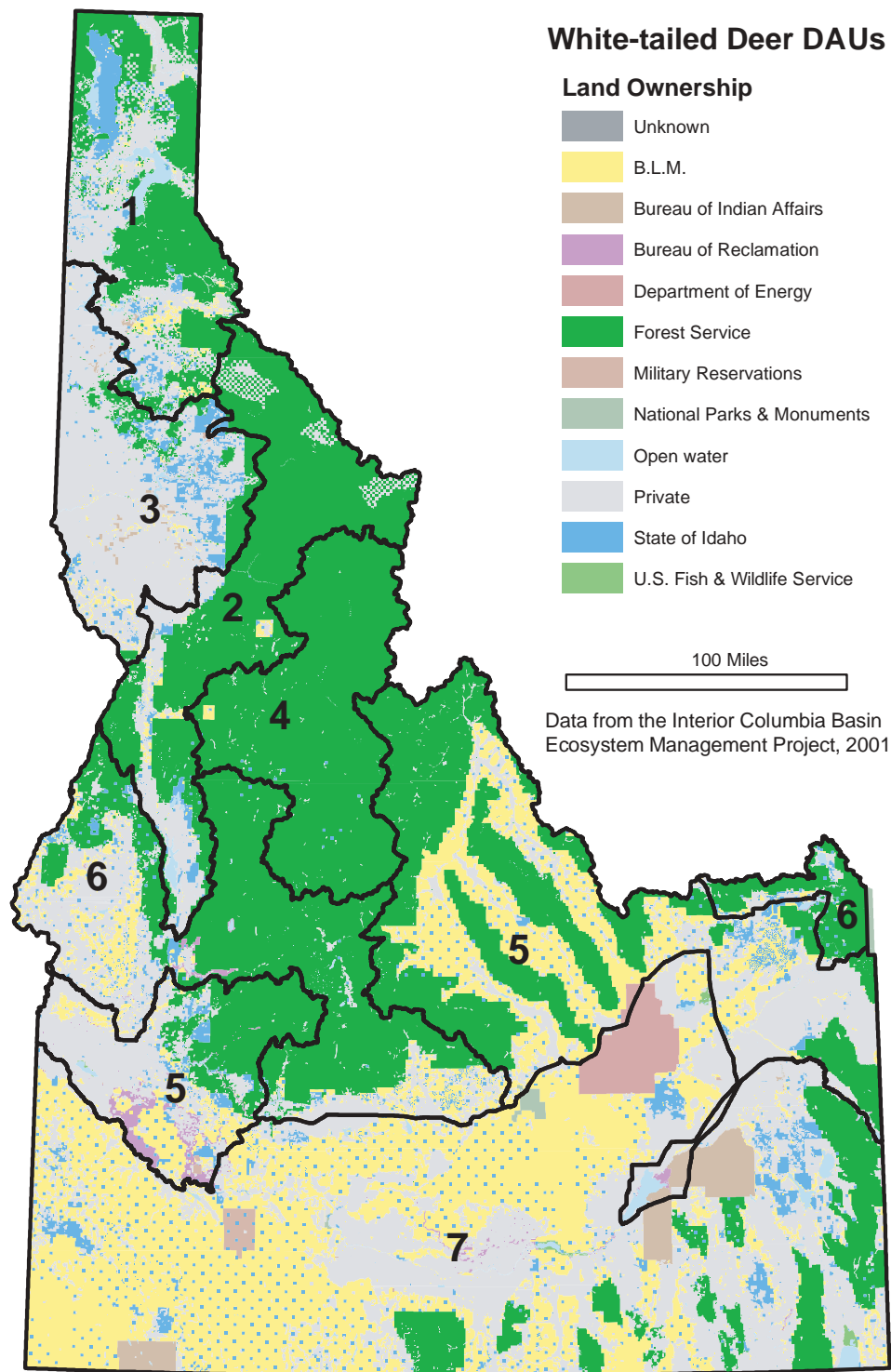


Figure 4. Land use patterns of white-tailed deer DAUs in Idaho.

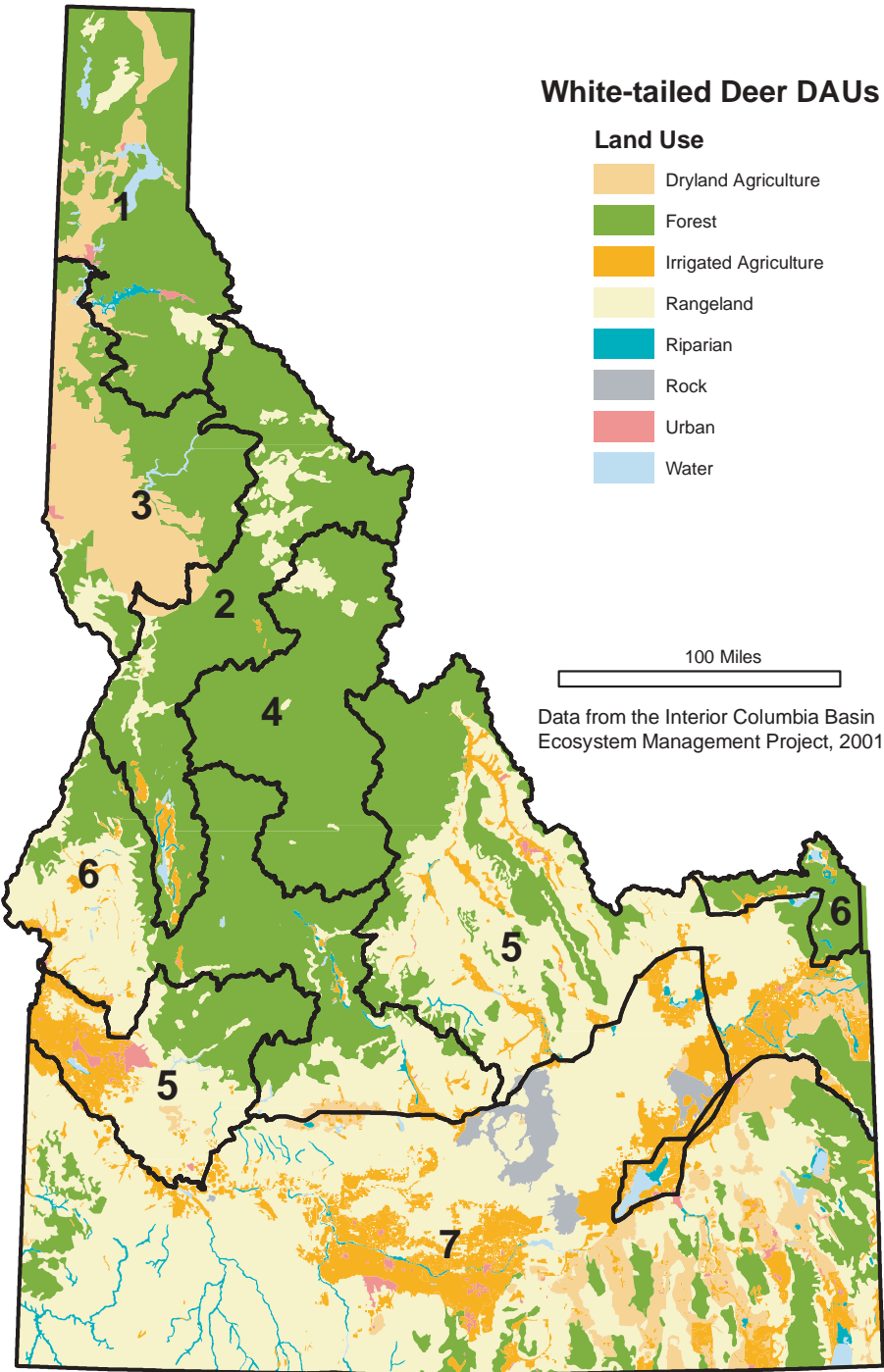
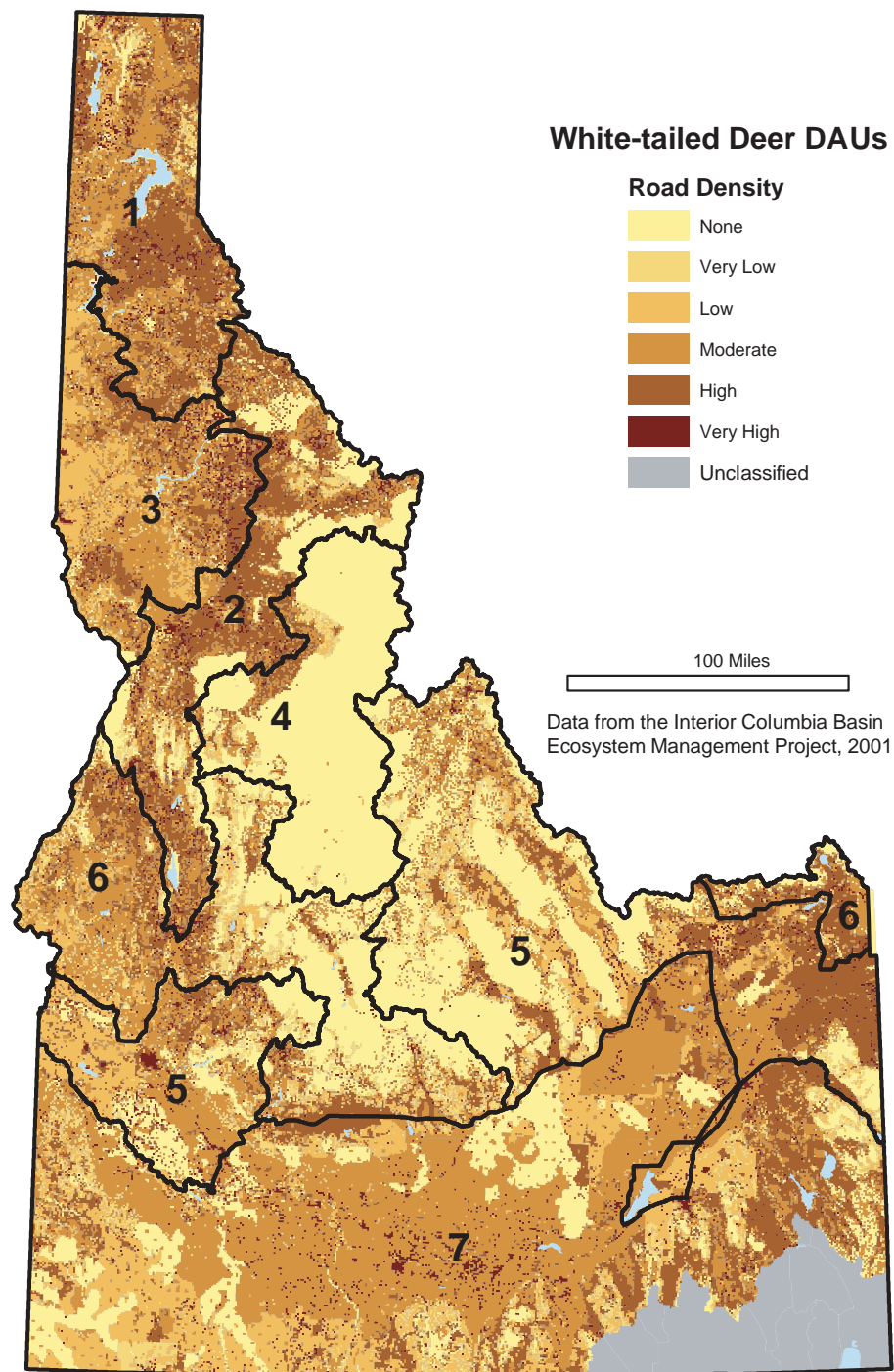


Figure 5. Road density patterns of white-tailed deer DAUs in Idaho.



## DAU 1: Northern Forest

### Description

This DAU includes GMUs 1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 5, and 6. The majority of the DAU is coniferous forest habitat with high road densities in public ownership. Hunter densities are relatively high, success rates are moderate, and the opportunity to harvest a mature buck white-tailed deer is high. Current hunting seasons for white-tailed deer are 26 to 31 days in length, with hunters able to harvest either-sex, season-long.

### Historical Perspective

Prior to the 1900s, deer were apparently relatively scarce, existing along the rivers and edges of mature conifer stands and within younger stands created by fire, disease, and insects. As mining, logging, and the railroads entered the picture around the turn of the century, deer habitat began to change slowly. The period from 1910 to 1931 included five major fires, each creating hundreds of thousands of acres of younger forests beneficial to white-tailed deer. The newly-created habitat and a major predator control program allowed deer numbers to continue this growth, even through five major die-offs: 1927, 1932, 1946, 1948, and 1949.

Concern about “over-browsed winter ranges” and “too many deer” prompted liberal hunting seasons in an effort to reduce deer numbers in the early 1950s. Long seasons were the rule from 1954 through 1974.

By the early 1970s, deer numbers had come down substantially from the peak numbers in the 1950s and 1960s. Hunting seasons were shortened, but no major habitat-creating fires had occurred for over 40 years. Since shorter seasons began in the mid-1970s, the number of whitetails killed by hunters in the Panhandle have increased from 3,000 per year to 10,000 per year.

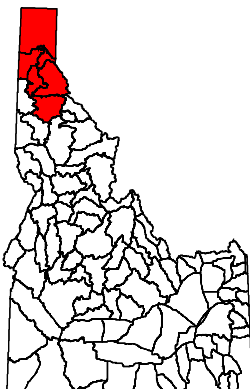
### Management Direction

White-tailed deer are more abundant than mule deer in this DAU. Management emphasis will be to maintain white-tailed deer populations that support hunting recreation and hunter satisfaction at recent or higher levels.

#### Objectives and Status

Criterion	Minimum	3-Year Average
Hunters	14,000	17,333
Hunter-days of recreation	85,000	106,600
Buck harvest	2,700	3,400
% 5+ points	17%	24%





# DAU 1: Northern Forest

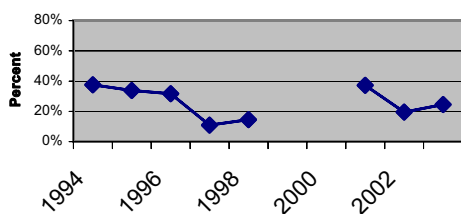
Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 6

## 3-Year Averages

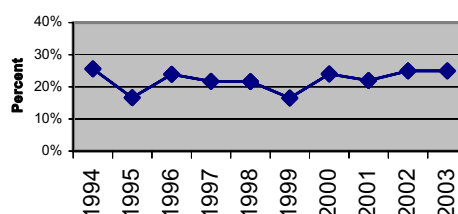
**Square Miles: 6,299**

Hunters per square mile: 3.2  
 Harvest per square mile: 0.8  
 Success Rate: 26%  
 Hunter-days/Whitetail: 23  
 Antlered: % 5+ points: 24%

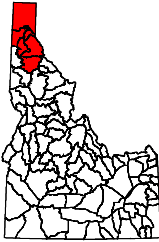
**Whitetail Success Rate**



**Antlered: % 5+ points**



Regular Deer Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hunters		28834	31364	26544	32137	27299	NA	NA	16028	22989	20906
Hunter Days		296900	341936	218983	190208	160019	NA	NA	93040	146394	121217
White-tailed Deer Harvest	Total	10832	10590	8398	3504	3977	4174	4778	5961	4478	5123
	Male	6668	7117	3812	2324	2993	2697	3074	3779	3057	3419
	Female	4164	3473	4586	1180	984	1477	1704	2182	1421	1704
Whitetail Success Rate		38%	34%	32%	11%	15%	NA	NA	37%	19%	25%
Antlered: % 5+ points		26%	17%	24%	22%	22%	17%	24%	22%	25%	25%
White-tailed Deer Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hunters		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunter Days											
Harvest	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male										
	Female										
Whitetail Success Rate											
Antlered: % 5+ points											
Controlled Hunt Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Permits								31	35	50	21
Hunter Days									144	407	178
Harvest	Total							9	13	18	7
	Male							8	13	18	7
	Female							1	0	0	0
Success Rate								29%	37%	36%	33%
Antlered: % 5+ points								0%	0%	0%	0%
All Deer Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hunters		28834	31364	26544	32137	27299	NA	NA	16063	23039	20927
Hunter Days		296900	341936	218983	190208	160019	NA	NA	93184	146801	121395
White-tailed Deer Harvest	Total	10832	10590	8398	3504	3977	4174	4787	5974	4496	5130
	Male	6668	7117	3812	2324	2993	2697	3082	3792	3075	3426
	Female	4164	3473	4586	1180	984	1477	1705	2182	1421	1704
Success Rate		38%	34%	32%	11%	15%			37%	20%	25%
Antlered: % 5+ points		26%	17%	24%	22%	22%	17%	24%	22%	25%	25%

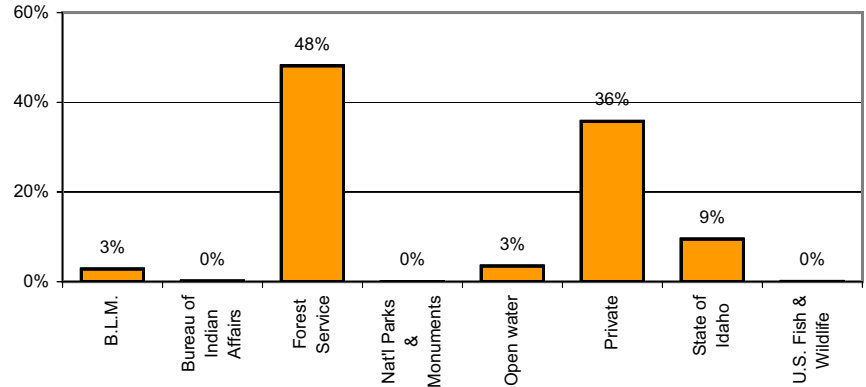


# DAU 1: Northern Forest

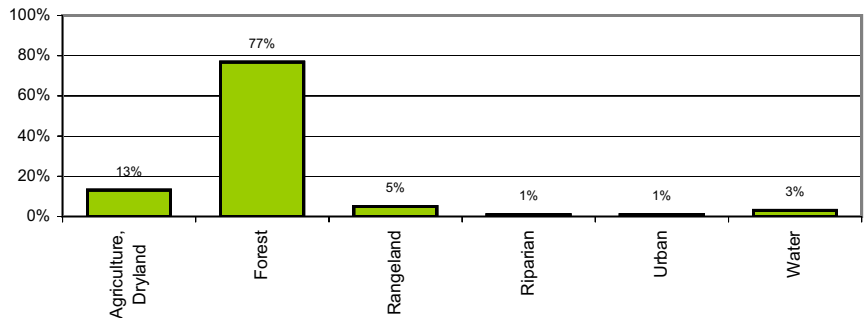
Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 6

<b>Private ownership</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Major land use-</b>	<b>Forest</b>
<b>Potential Forest-</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>Roadless Area -</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>

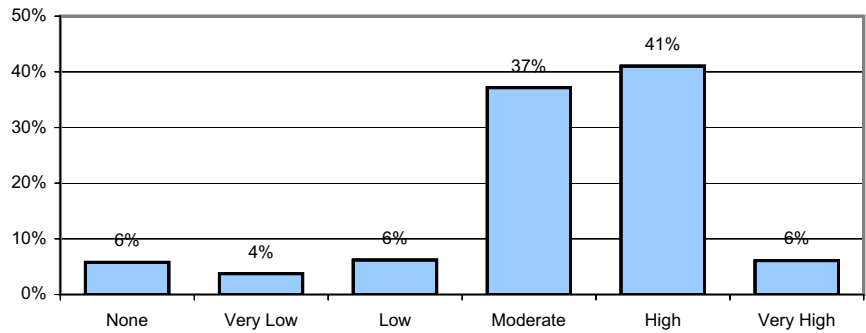
Land Owner	Acres
B.L.M.	114,201
Bureau of Indian Affairs	7,094
Forest Service	1,939,716
Nat'l Parks & Monuments	991
Open water	141,051
Private	1,442,719
State of Idaho	382,886
U.S. Fish & Wildlife	2,685



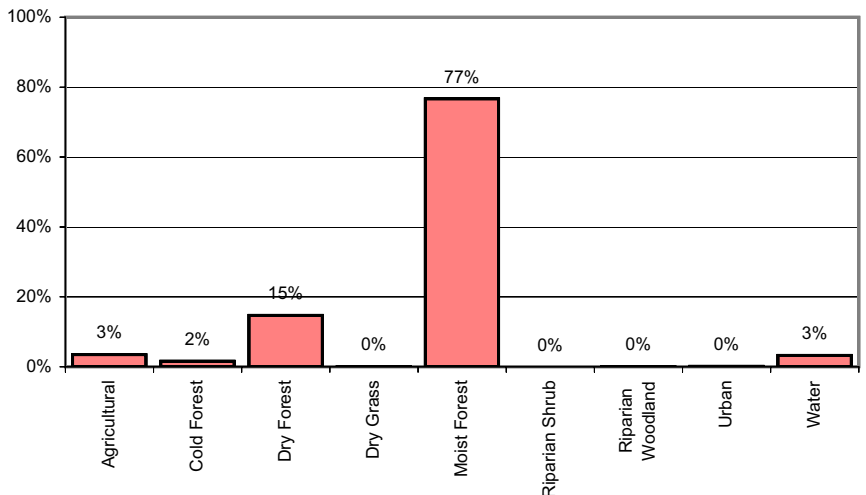
Land Use	Acres
Agriculture, Dryland	530,814
Forest	3,099,378
Rangeland	200,292
Riparian	38,204
Urban	38,764
Water	123,711



Road Density	Acres
None (< 0.2 mi./sq. mi.)	233,762
Very Low (0.02 to 0.1 mi./sq. mi.)	150,487
Low (0.1 to 0.7 mi./sq. mi.)	250,071
Moderate (0.7 to 1.7 mi./sq. mi.)	1,496,223
High (1.7 to 4.7 mi./sq. mi.)	1,653,629
Very High (>= 4.7 mi./sq. mi.)	244,387



Potential Vegetation	Acres
Agricultural	140,603
Cold Forest	64,000
Dry Forest	592,806
Dry Grass	1,483
Moist Forest	3,088,323
Riparian Shrub	494
Riparian Woodland	2,965
Urban	6,178
Water	131,707





## DAU 2: Central Forest

### Description

This DAU includes GMUs 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 23, and 24. The majority of this DAU consists of coniferous forest habitat with moderate to high road densities. A high percentage of the land in this DAU is under public (USFS) ownership. Hunter densities, success rates, and the opportunity to harvest a mature buck white-tailed deer are all moderate. Current general any-weapon deer hunting seasons for whitetails run from October 10 to November 20 (42 days) for most of the units in this DAU (10, 12, 14, 15, 16, and 18) and are open for either-sex, season-long. Units 7 and 9 have a 25 day (October 10 to November 3) either-sex season. The season in Units 23 and 24 runs from October 5 to October 31 (27 days) for antlered deer. Antlerless deer can be taken during these same dates, but only by youth hunters (hunters 12 – 17 years of age). Additionally, an extra antlerless controlled hunt is held in portions of Units 15 and 16 to address depredations on private property.

### Historical Perspective

White-tailed deer populations in this DAU were historically low. Accounts from Lewis and Clark during the 1800s suggested that very few animals were found throughout the Clearwater River country. Populations probably did not change much until the early 1900s when fires converted large expanses of dense coniferous forest into a mosaic of vegetation succession types. Logging also contributed to creating a mosaic of brush fields and uneven-aged forest stands. Populations probably peaked around the 1940s-1950s, followed by a slight decline. Currently, populations are high.

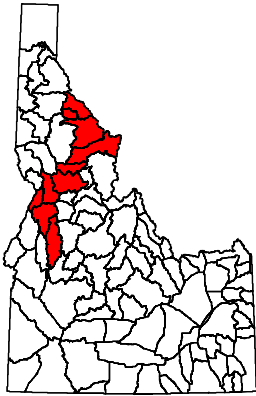
Historically, white-tailed deer and mule deer were managed as a “single species:” a single general season harvest framework was established for both species. In 1973 the Department began to offer species-specific seasons in the Clearwater Region. These units have either-sex hunting seasons in October. During the mid-1980s the white-tailed deer hunting season was extended into mid-November. In 1990 most November white-tailed deer seasons became either-sex hunts. In 1997 an extra doe tag was established in Unit 16 south of the Selway River. In 1998 the Clearwater Deer Tag was established.

### Management Direction

White-tailed deer are more abundant than mule deer in this DAU. Management emphasis will be to maintain white-tailed deer populations that support hunting recreation and hunter satisfaction at recent or higher levels.

### Objectives and Status

Criterion	Minimum	3-Year Average
Hunters	5,200	6,491
Hunter-days of recreation	25,500	31,835
Buck harvest	1,500	1,900
% 5+ points	10%	17%



## DAU 2: Central Forest

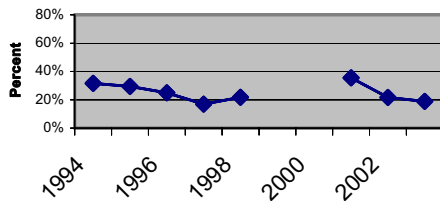
Units 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 23, 24

### 3-Year Averages

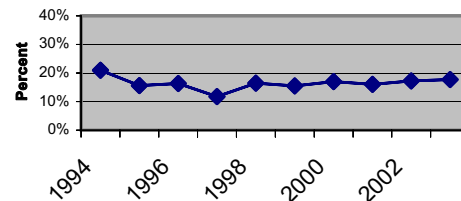
**Square Miles:** 6,879

Hunters per square mile:	1.6
Harvest per square mile:	0.4
Success Rate:	24%
Hunter-days/Whitetail	20
Antlered: % 5+ points	17%

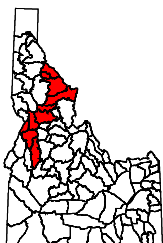
**Whitetail Success Rate**



**Antlered: % 5+ points**



Regular Deer Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hunters		14850	15775	12031	18202	13172	NA	NA	8446	12263	10860
Hunter Days		120664	126367	77925	87399	72227	NA	NA	40746	65091	53927
White-tailed Deer Harvest	Total	4718	4600	2999	3004	2828	1910	2505	2858	2494	1954
	Male	3207	3651	2085	2128	1926	1393	1846	2023	1759	1401
	Female	1511	949	914	876	902	517	659	835	735	553
Whitetail Success Rate		32%	29%	25%	17%	21%	NA	NA	34%	20%	18%
Antlered: % 5+ points		21%	16%	16%	12%	16%	15%	17%	16%	17%	18%
White-tailed Deer Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hunters		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunter Days											
Harvest	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male										
	Female										
Whitetail Success Rate											
Antlered: % 5+ points											
Controlled Hunt Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Permits		100	79	0	225	100	100	325	472	761	241
Hunter Days									1706	1910	1026
Harvest	Total	14	63	0	104	55	58	267	306	329	144
	Male	14	63		0	0	0	172	196	211	20
	Female	0	0		104	55	58	95	110	118	124
Success Rate		14%	80%		46%	55%	58%	82%	65%	43%	60%
Antlered: % 5+ points		0%	0%		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
All Deer Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hunters		14950	15854	12031	18427	13272	NA	NA	8918	13024	11101
Hunter Days		120664	126367	77925	87399	72227	NA	NA	42452	67001	54953
White-tailed Deer Harvest	Total	4732	4663	2999	3108	2883	1968	2772	3164	2823	2098
	Male	3221	3714	2085	2128	1926	1393	2018	2219	1970	1421
	Female	1511	949	914	980	957	575	754	945	853	677
Success Rate		32%	29%	25%	17%	22%			35%	22%	19%
Antlered: % 5+ points		21%	16%	16%	12%	16%	15%	17%	16%	17%	18%

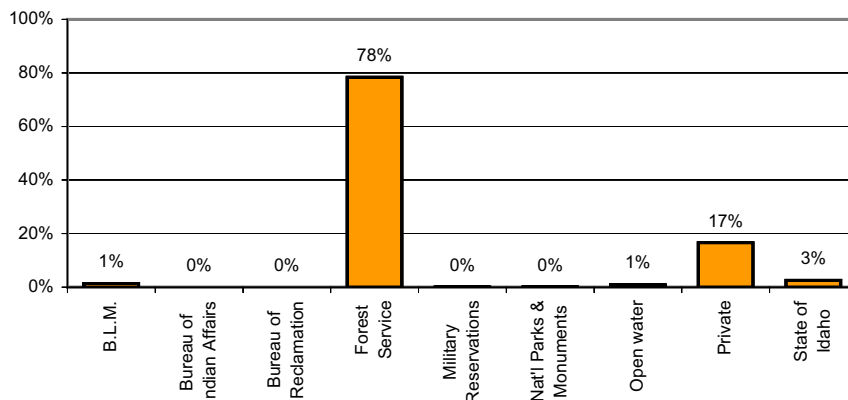


## DAU 2: Central Forest

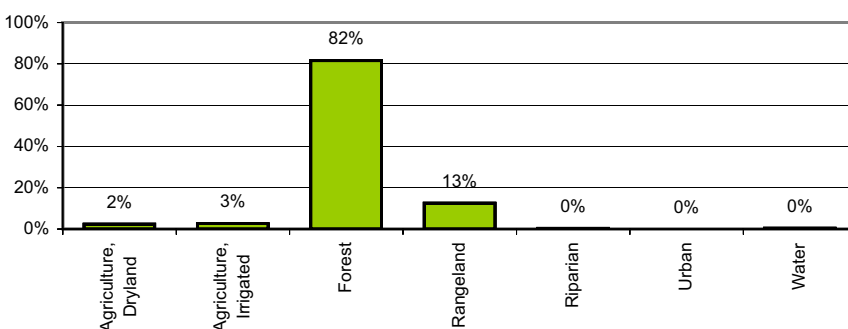
Units 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 23, 24

**Private ownership 17%**  
**Major land use- Forest 93%**  
**Potential Forest- 93%**  
**Roadless Area - 24%**

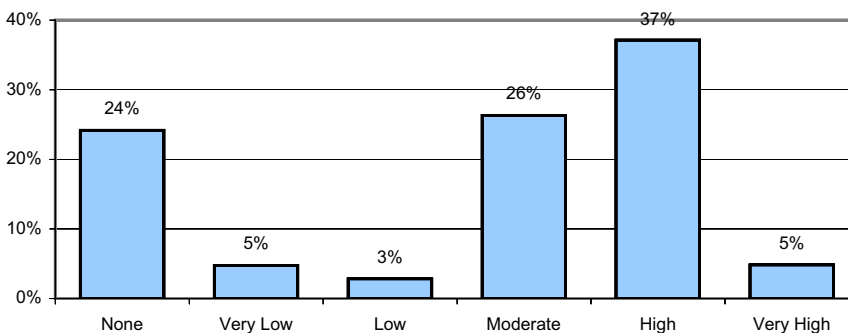
Land Owner	Acres
B.L.M.	60,193
Bureau of Indian Affairs	607
Bureau of Reclamation	423
Forest Service	3,451,909
Military Reservations	2,540
Nat'l Parks & Monuments	1,915
Open water	40,809
Private	731,792
State of Idaho	112,680



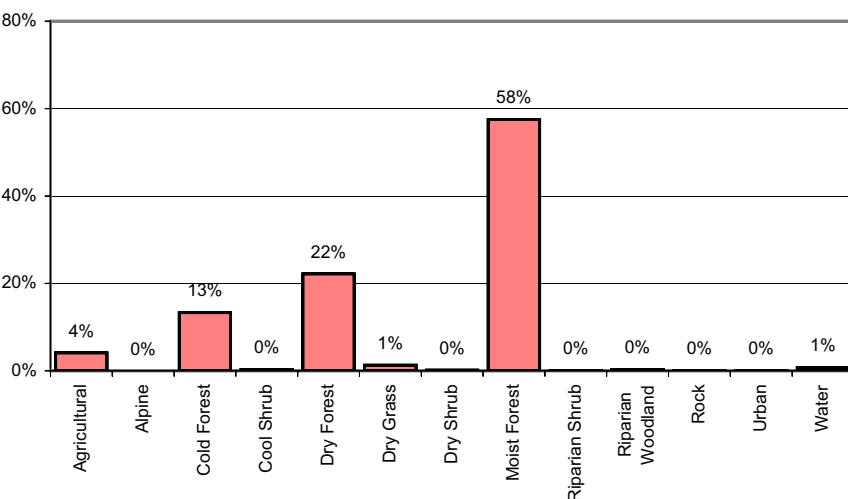
Land Use	Acres
Agriculture, Dryland	103,720
Agriculture, Irrigated	117,403
Forest	3,592,270
Rangeland	552,322
Riparian	16,636
Urban	485
Water	20,028



Road Density	Acres
None (< 0.2 mi./sq. mi.)	1,064,530
Very Low (0.02 to 0.1 mi./sq. mi.)	208,310
Low (0.1 to 0.7 mi./sq. mi.)	124,541
Moderate (0.7 to 1.7 mi./sq. mi.)	1,158,183
High (1.7 to 4.7 mi./sq. mi.)	1,636,085
Very High (>= 4.7 mi./sq. mi.)	212,758



Potential Vegetation	Acres
Agricultural	181,128
Alpine	247
Cold Forest	585,640
Cool Shrub	11,861
Dry Forest	976,808
Dry Grass	56,340
Dry Shrub	7,907
Moist Forest	2,532,830
Riparian Shrub	1,730
Riparian Woodland	13,838
Rock	988
Urban	1,236
Water	33,853



## DAU 3: Northern Agriculture

### Description

This DAU includes GMUs 5, 8, 8A, 10A, 11, 11A, and 13. The majority of this DAU consists of private property and is nearly equally split between dryland agriculture and coniferous forest habitats. Road densities are moderate. Hunter densities, success rates, and the opportunity to harvest a mature buck white-tailed deer are amongst the highest in the state. The relatively large private property component of this DAU has led to a number of management challenges including: depredations on agricultural crops, achieving adequate antlerless harvest, and tensions between landowners and sportsmen over access/trespass issues. Current hunting seasons for white-tailed deer range from a 53-day either-sex season in Units 8 and 8A down to a 25-day season for antlered deer with a 7-day antlerless season in Unit 13. All seasons open on October 10, except for Unit 5 which has a November 1 opener. Additionally, controlled hunts for extra antlerless deer are held in Units 8, 8A, 10A, and 11A as a population control measure.

### Historical Perspective

White-tailed deer populations in this DAU were historically low. Accounts from Lewis and Clark during the 1800s suggested that very few animals were found throughout the Clearwater River country. Populations probably did not change much until the early 1900s when large fires and settlement by humans, including grazing of domestic livestock and clearing of land for agricultural purposes, changed the landscape. Logging also converted dense coniferous forests into a mosaic of vegetation-succession types and intensified throughout the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Currently, populations are at historic highs.

Historically, white-tailed deer and mule deer were managed as a “single species:” a single general season harvest framework was established for both species. In 1973 the Department began to offer species-specific seasons in the Clearwater Region.

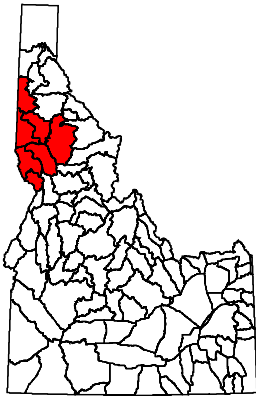
These units have either-sex hunting seasons in October. During the mid-1980s buck seasons in most units were into mid-November. In 1990 most November white-tailed deer seasons were changed to either-sex hunts. In 1997 an extra doe tag was established in the southern portion of Unit 10A and the southeastern portion of 11A. The 11A hunt was expanded to include the entire unit in 2000 and to include antlerless mule deer. In 1998 the Clearwater Deer Tag was established.

### Management Direction

White-tailed deer are more abundant than mule deer in this DAU. Management emphasis will be to maintain hunting recreation and hunter satisfaction at or near recent levels. Additionally, management actions designed to maintain adequate harvest pressure on antlerless whitetails will be a priority in order to address depredation concerns.

### Objectives and Status

Criterion	Minimum	3-Year Average
Hunters	12,700	15,861
Hunter-days of recreation	81,000	101,135
Buck harvest	4,300	5,400
% 5+ points	17%	25%



## DAU 3: Northern Agriculture

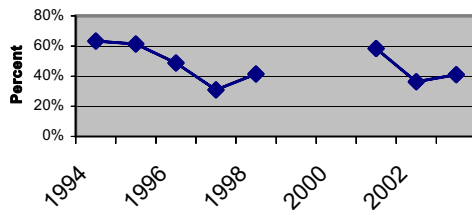
Units 5, 8, 8A, 10A, 11, 11A, 13

### 3-Year Averages

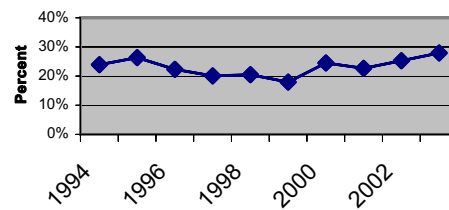
**Square Miles: 5,698**

Hunters per square mile:	3.4
Harvest per square mile:	1.5
Success Rate:	44%
Hunter-days/Whitetail	13
Antlered: % 5+ points	25%

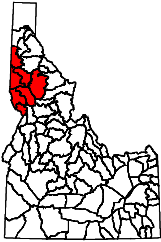
**Whitetail Success Rate**



**Antlered: % 5+ points**



Regular Deer Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hunters		19925	16600	18266	24019	19754	NA	NA	14252	20727	18240
Hunter Days		185528	153467	148048	155040	131659	NA	NA	82442	128448	106058
White-tailed Deer Harvest	Total	12614	10186	8915	7307	8160	6404	7212	8265	7377	7176
	Male	8491	7099	5916	5104	5580	4360	5066	5421	4896	5067
	Female	4123	3087	2999	2203	2580	2044	2146	2844	2481	2109
Whitetail Success Rate		63%	61%	49%	30%	41%	NA	NA	58%	36%	39%
Antlered: % 5+ points		24%	26%	22%	20%	20%	18%	25%	23%	25%	28%
White-tailed Deer Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hunters		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunter Days											
Harvest	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male										
	Female										
Whitetail Success Rate											
Antlered: % 5+ points											
Controlled Hunt Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Permits					550	350	350	638	884	2229	1265.5
Hunter Days									3673	6218	7020
Harvest	Total				284	173	135	501	577	946	825
	Male				0	0	0	311	253	335	124
	Female				284	173	135	190	324	611	701
Success Rate					52%	49%	39%	79%	65%	42%	65%
Antlered: % 5+ points					0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
All Deer Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hunters		19925	16600	18266	24569	20104	NA	NA	15136	22956	19506
Hunter Days		185528	153467	148048	155040	131659	NA	NA	86115	134666	113078
White-tailed Deer Harvest	Total	12614	10186	8915	7591	8333	6539	7713	8842	8323	8001
	Male	8491	7099	5916	5104	5580	4360	5377	5674	5231	5191
	Female	4123	3087	2999	2487	2753	2179	2336	3168	3092	2810
Success Rate		63%	61%	49%	31%	41%			58%	36%	41%
Antlered: % 5+ points		24%	26%	22%	20%	20%	18%	25%	23%	25%	28%

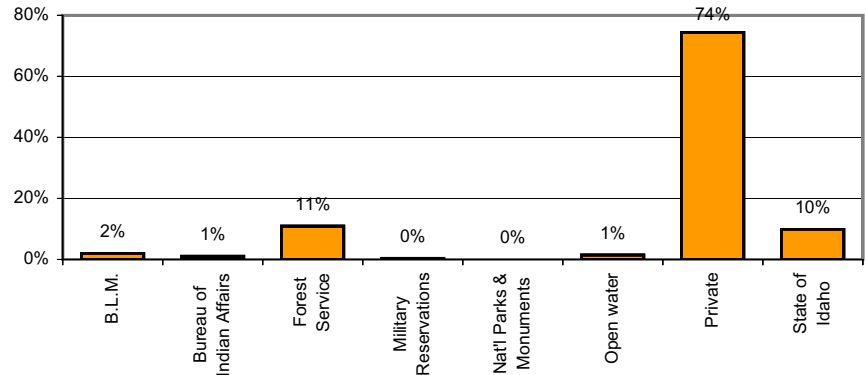


## DAU 3: Northern Agriculture

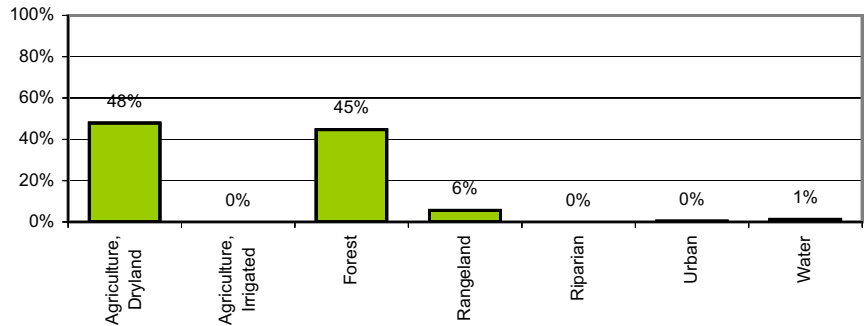
Units 5, 8, 8A, 10A, 11, 11A, 13

**Private ownership** 74%  
**Major land use-** Agriculture  
**Potential Forest-** 49%  
**Roadless Area -** 3%

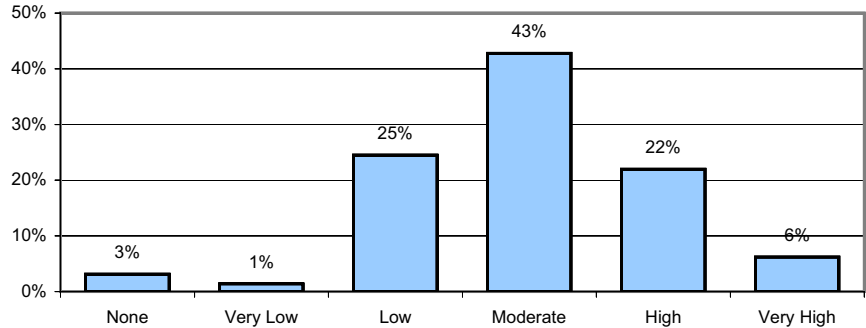
Land Owner	Acres
B.L.M.	72,588
Bureau of Indian Affairs	36,932
Forest Service	397,642
Military Reservations	13,354
Nat'l Parks & Monuments	149
Open water	53,450
Private	2,714,378
State of Idaho	358,053



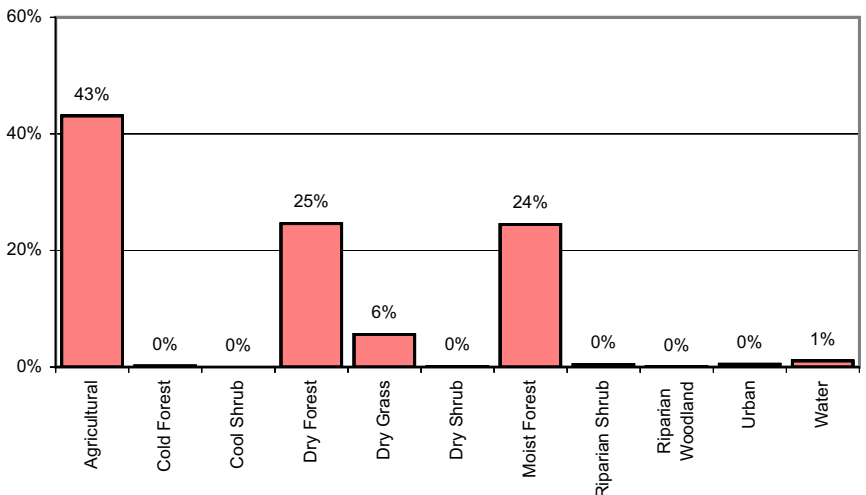
Land Use	Acres
Agriculture, Dryland	1,748,873
Agriculture, Irrigated	31
Forest	1,629,067
Rangeland	205,109
Riparian	625
Urban	15,761
Water	47,829



Road Density	Acres
None (< 0.2 mi./sq. mi.)	114,123
Very Low (0.02 to 0.1 mi./sq. mi.)	51,362
Low (0.1 to 0.7 mi./sq. mi.)	893,833
Moderate (0.7 to 1.7 mi./sq. mi.)	1,561,008
High (1.7 to 4.7 mi./sq. mi.)	801,434
Very High (>= 4.7 mi./sq. mi.)	226,074



Potential Vegetation	Acres
Agricultural	1,571,513
Cold Forest	6,522
Cool Shrub	494
Dry Forest	897,824
Dry Grass	203,759
Dry Shrub	3,859
Moist Forest	891,410
Riparian Shrub	15,816
Riparian Woodland	741
Urban	17,627
Water	38,269





## DAU 4: Backcountry

### Description

This DAU includes GMUs 16A, 17, 19, 19A, 20, 20A, 26, and 27. The majority of this DAU is classified as wilderness. Land ownership is over 99% USFS. Road densities are extremely low, with most roads acting as peripheral access to the Selway-Bitterroot, Gospel Hump, and Frank Church River of No Return wilderness areas. This low road density contributes to relatively low deer vulnerability in the area. Habitat varies from mesic forest conditions in the Selway River drainage to dry, open pine/grassland habitat in the Salmon River drainage. Hunter densities are low and any-weapon seasons are long in this DAU.

### Historical Perspective

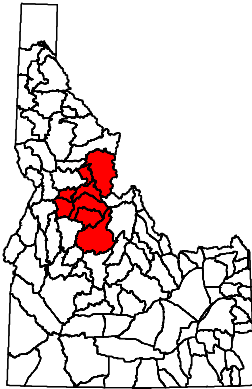
Little quantifiable information exists on present or historic white-tailed deer populations in this DAU. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, white-tailed deer and mule deer were managed as a “single species” with a single, general, either-sex season framework that ran from 15 September to 18 November. In 1997, the bag limit in this DAU south of the Salmon River was changed to bucks-only in response to deer herd (primarily mule deer) declines from the severe 1992-93 winter. The Clearwater deer tag was established in 1998 for hunting deer in the Clearwater Region, which affected lands in this DAU north of the Salmon River. Further management changes in 2000 included converting general seasons to controlled hunts for deer south of the Salmon River during the more vulnerable periods in late October and November. The rugged and remote nature of this area will continue to limit the impacts of humans on white-tailed deer and habitat.

### Management Direction

Mule deer are more abundant than white-tailed deer in this DAU. Management emphasis will be to maintain the “single species” approach. White-tailed deer populations will be maintained to support hunting recreation and hunter satisfaction at recent or higher levels.

### Objectives and Status

Criterion	Minimum	3-Year Average
Hunters	700	847
Hunter-days of recreation	3,500	4,410
% 5+ points	10%	21%



## DAU 4: Backcountry

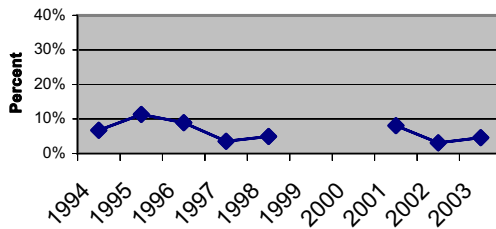
Units 16A, 17, 19, 19A, 20, 20A, 26, 27

### 3-Year Averages

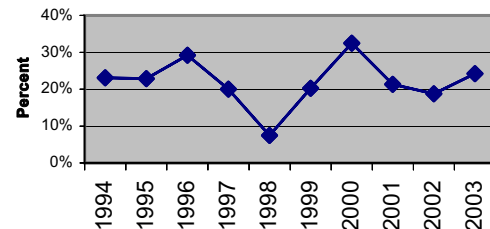
**Square Miles:** 5,873

Hunters per square mile: 0.6  
 Harvest per square mile: 0.0  
 Success Rate: 5%  
 Hunter-days/Whitetail: 123  
 Antlered: % 5+ points: 21%

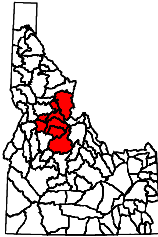
**Whitetail Success Rate**



**Antlered: % 5+ points**



Regular Deer Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hunters		7197	10185	6911	7013	6491	NA	NA	2581	4671	3587
Hunter Days		48274	70601	43997	77700	37639	NA	NA	14188	29592	19483
White-tailed Deer Harvest	Total	485	1151	617	248	321	122	204	208	144	164
	Male	371	1015	477	230	280	98	158	156	107	125
	Female	114	136	140	18	41	24	46	52	37	39
Whitetail Success Rate		7%	11%	9%	4%	5%	NA	NA	8%	3%	5%
Antlered: % 5+ points		23%	23%	29%	20%	7%	20%	32%	21%	19%	24%
White-tailed Deer Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hunters		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunter Days											
Harvest	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male										
	Female										
Whitetail Success Rate											
Antlered: % 5+ points											
Controlled Hunt Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Permits		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunter Days											
Harvest	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male										
	Female										
Success Rate											
Antlered: % 5+ points											
All Deer Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hunters		7197	10185	6911	7013	6491	NA	NA	2581.4	4671	3587
Hunter Days		48274	70601	43997	77700	37639	NA	NA	14188	29592	19483
White-tailed Deer Harvest	Total	485	1151	617	248	321	122	204	208	144	164
	Male	371	1015	477	230	280	98	158	156	107	125
	Female	114	136	140	18	41	24	46	52	37	39
Success Rate		7%	11%	9%	4%	5%			8%	3%	5%
Antlered: % 5+ points		23%	23%	29%	20%	7%	20%	32%	21%	19%	24%

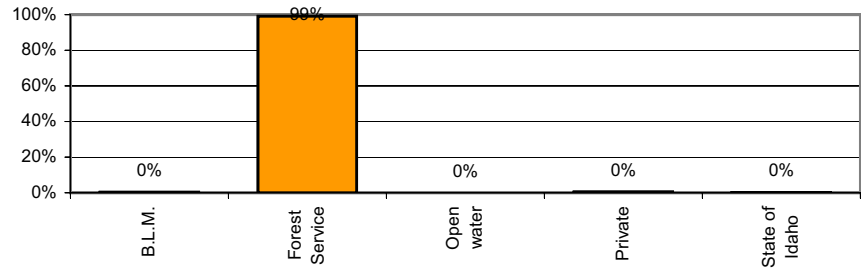


## DAU 4: Backcountry

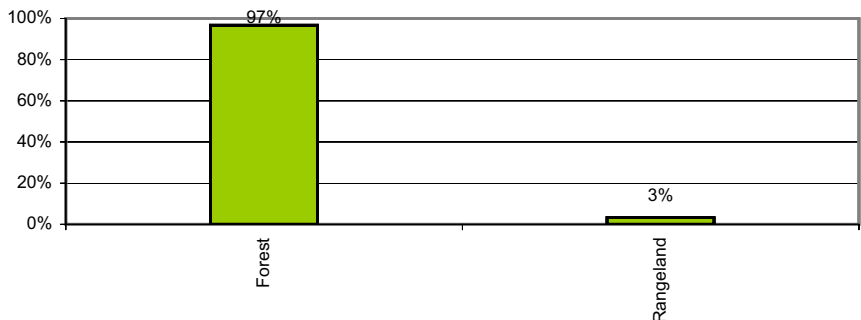
Units 16A, 17, 19, 19A, 20, 20A, 26, 27

**Private ownership** <1%  
**Major land use-** **Forest**  
**Potential Forest-** **96%**  
**Roadless Area -** **86%**

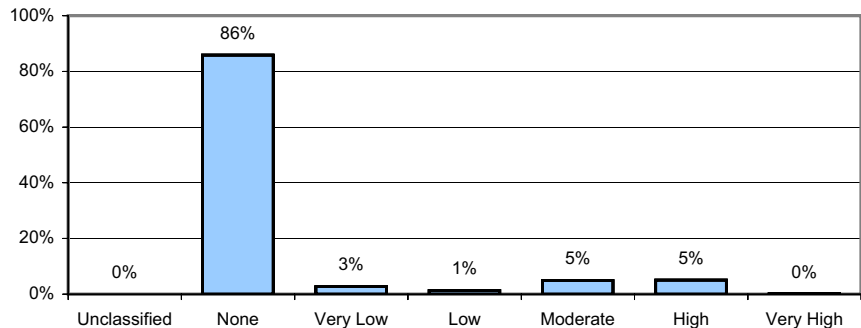
Land Owner	Acres
B.L.M.	11,935
Forest Service	3,723,438
Open water	1,567
Private	13,907
State of Idaho	7,598



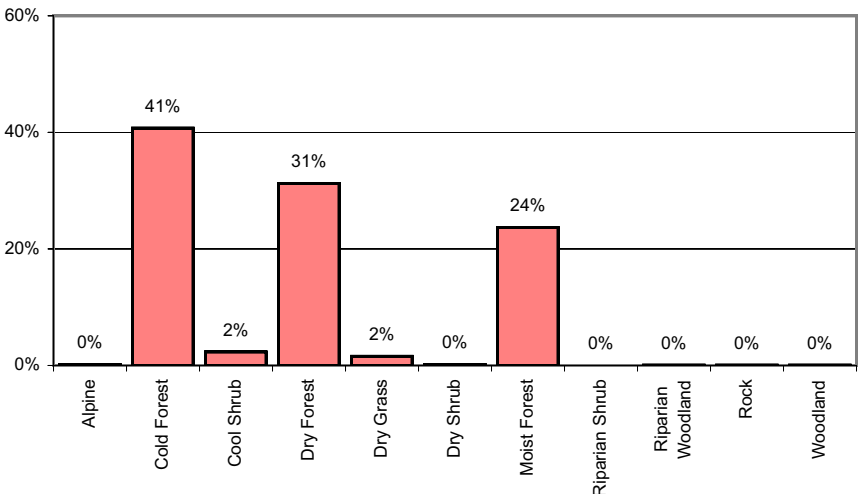
Land Use	Acres
Forest	3,636,536
Rangeland	121,909



Road Density	Acres
Not Classified	494
None (< 0.2 mi./sq. mi.)	3,228,312
Very Low (0.02 to 0.1 mi./sq. mi.)	102,993
Low (0.1 to 0.7 mi./sq. mi.)	48,119
Moderate (0.7 to 1.7 mi./sq. mi.)	182,184
High (1.7 to 4.7 mi./sq. mi.)	191,210
Very High (>= 4.7 mi./sq. mi.)	5,904



Potential Vegetation	Acres
Alpine	5,830
Cold Forest	1,531,323
Cool Shrub	87,049
Dry Forest	1,173,287
Dry Grass	59,624
Dry Shrub	5,679
Moist Forest	888,956
Riparian Shrub	368
Riparian Woodland	1,729
Rock	2,384
Woodland	2,495



## DAU 5: Rangeland- Riparian Habitat

### Description

This DAU includes GMUs 21, 21A, 28, 29, 30, 30A, 36A, 36B, 37, 37A, 38, 39, 50, 51, 58, 59, 59A, 60, 60A, 62, 63A, 64, 65, 67, and 68A. This DAU is a mix of several habitat types from coniferous forest to rangelands and riparian habitats. Most white-tailed deer habitat is on private lands. White-tailed deer hunter densities are relatively low, success rates are low, and the opportunity to harvest a mature buck white-tailed deer is moderate. Current general hunting seasons for white-tailed deer are structured mainly for mule deer.

### Historical Perspective

Historical accounts indicate that white-tailed deer were native to the area. At the turn of the century, white-tailed deer were relatively scarce, most likely because of unregulated subsistence harvest by early settlers. At one point white-tailed deer were apparently reintroduced in the river bottoms of the South Fork and North Fork of the Snake River. No records of this translocation can be found, but it occurred in 1957. Since the early 1980s white-tailed deer have expanded and grown in number. They have moved farther up the South Fork and Henry's Fork of the Snake River. Currently they exist along rivers and creeks, and have spread into thick conifer and aspen stands in some areas. Within more northern units, whitetails are still limited to riparian corridors along major drainages and numbers appear relatively stable.

Area residents in southern units are reporting that more white-tailed deer inhabit the area. There are no survey data for white-tailed deer, and existing harvest data could be misleading due to inconsistent seasons and an increased popularity of white-tailed deer hunting. It does appear that populations have increased.

Local hunters were not traditionally white-tailed deer hunters. The sport is gaining popularity in the area though. This could be due to restricted mule deer seasons, decreased numbers of mule deer in some areas, increases in white-tailed deer populations, and attractive controlled hunting opportunities.

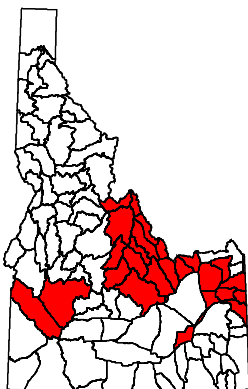
Other wild ungulates within the DAU include mule deer, elk, antelope, moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats. None are believed to be limiting white-tailed deer numbers. Moose and white-tailed deer use similar habitats and forage in the DAU but no problem is foreseen. There is concern that as white-tailed deer move out of the river bottoms, they could be in competition with mule deer for forage and space and may interfere with breeding.

### Management Direction

White-tailed deer will be managed in appropriate habitats in this DAU. White-tailed deer populations will be maintained to support hunting recreation and hunter satisfaction at recent or higher levels.

### Objectives and Status

Criterion	Minimum	3-Year Average
Hunters	900	1,150
Hunter-days of recreation	4,700	5,900
% 5+ points	10%	19%

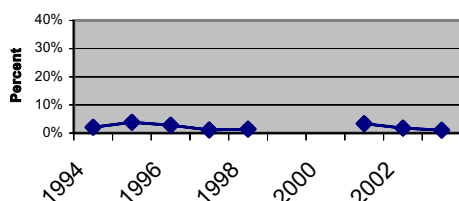


## DAU 5: Rangeland-Riparian Habitat

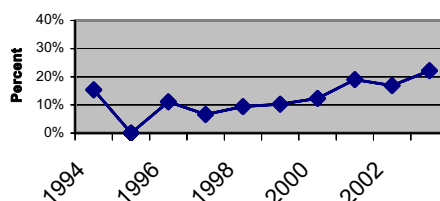
Units 21, 21A, 28, 29, 30, 30A, 36A, 36B, 37, 37A, 38, 39, 50, 51, 58,  
59, 59A, 60, 60A, 62, 63A, 64, 65, 67, 68A

<b>3-Year Averages</b>		Hunters per square mile:	1.3
		Harvest per square mile:	0.0
<b>Square Miles: 17,859</b>		Success Rate:	2%
		Hunter-days/Whitetail	219
		Antlered: % 5+ points	19%

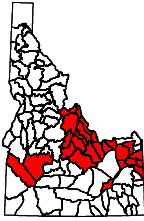
**Whitetail Success Rate**



**Antlered: % 5+ points**



<b>Regular Deer Tags</b>		<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
Hunters		22278	21356	22080	29001	23815	NA	NA	18611	27004	21934
Hunter Days		128345	131379	125196	146993	126826	NA	NA	74340	123816	88165
White-tailed Deer Harvest	Total	454	815	618	318	339	283	351	618	469	223
	Male	285	577	458	273	293	197	272	383	358	182
	Female	169	238	160	45	46	86	79	235	111	41
Whitetail Success Rate		2%	4%	3%	1%	1%	NA	NA	3%	2%	1%
Antlered: % 5+ points		15%	0%	11%	7%	9%	10%	12%	19%	17%	22%
<b>White-tailed Deer Tags</b>		<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
Hunters		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunter Days											
Harvest	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male										
	Female										
Whitetail Success Rate											
Antlered: % 5+ points											
<b>Controlled Hunt Tags</b>		<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
Permits		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunter Days											
Harvest	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male										
	Female										
Success Rate											
Antlered: % 5+ points											
<b>All Deer Tags</b>		<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
Hunters		22278	21356	22080	29001	23815	NA	NA	18611	27004	21934
Hunter Days		128345	131379	125196	146993	126826	NA	NA	74340	123816	88165
White-tailed Deer Harvest	Total	454	815	618	318	339	283	351	618	469	223
	Male	285	577	458	273	293	197	272	383	358	182
	Female	169	238	160	45	46	86	79	235	111	41
Success Rate		2%	4%	3%	1%	1%			3%	2%	1%
Antlered: % 5+ points		15%	0%	11%	7%	9%	10%	12%	19%	17%	22%

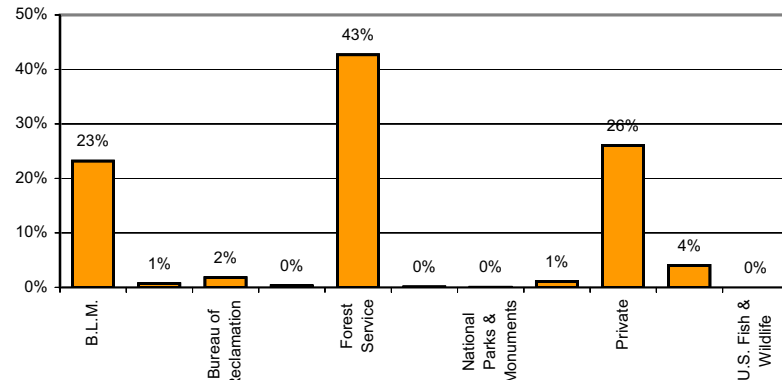


## DAU 5: Rangeland-Riparian Habitat

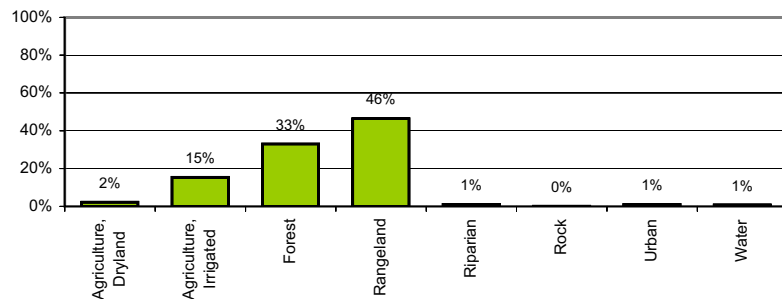
Units 21, 21A, 28, 29, 30, 30A, 36A, 36B,  
37, 37A, 38, 39, 50, 51, 58, 59, 59A,  
60, 60A, 62, 63A, 64, 65, 67, 68A

**Private ownership 26%**  
**Major land use- Rangeland**  
**Potential Forest- 20%**  
**Roadless Area - 35%**

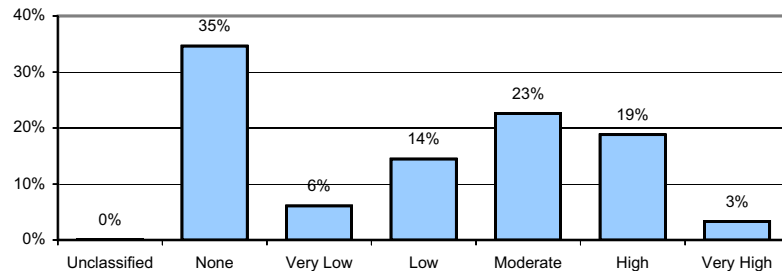
Land Owner	Acres
B.L.M.	2,651,153
Bureau of Indian Affairs	78,907
Bureau of Reclamation	206,869
Department of Energy	32,083
Forest Service	4,880,557
Military Reservations	9,274
National Parks & Monuments	3,971
Open water	120,537
Private	2,981,896
State of Idaho	462,937
U.S. Fish & Wildlife	1,498



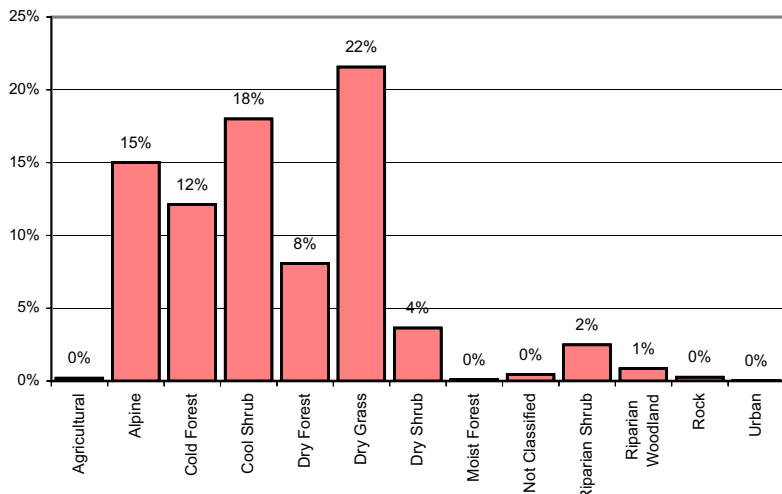
Land Use	Acres
Agriculture, Dryland	249,389
Agriculture, Irrigated	1,762,493
Forest	3,774,623
Rangeland	5,304,402
Riparian	121,458
Rock	14,263
Urban	117,842
Water	84,602



Road Density	Acres
Not Classified	9,431
None (< 0.2 mi./sq. mi.)	3,959,205
Very Low (0.02 to 0.1 mi./sq. mi.)	696,613
Low (0.1 to 0.7 mi./sq. mi.)	1,653,326
Moderate (0.7 to 1.7 mi./sq. mi.)	2,582,198
High (1.7 to 4.7 mi./sq. mi.)	2,149,180
Very High (>= 4.7 mi./sq. mi.)	379,319



Potential Vegetation	Acres
Agricultural	1,752,712
Alpine	22,444
Cold Forest	1,717,243
Cool Shrub	1,386,375
Dry Forest	2,058,422
Dry Grass	923,796
Dry Shrub	2,465,052
Moist Forest	416,070
Not Classified	11,653
Riparian Shrub	50,642
Riparian Woodland	283,659
Rock	97,157
Urban	30,207
Water	3,640
Woodland	212,423





## DAU 6: Dryland Forest

### Description

This DAU includes GMUs 22, 25, 31, 32, 32A, 33, 34, 35, 36, 43, 44, 48, 49, 61, and 62A. This DAU is generally described as having dryland forest habitat. These habitats vary from high elevation lodgepole pine forests (GMUs 62A and 36), mountainous terrain with Douglas fir communities primarily on north and east facing slopes (GMUs 43 and 48), to relatively open ponderosa pine forests with grass understories (GMUs 22 and 25). Road densities are moderate and approximately 75% of the DAU is in public ownership. White-tailed deer densities are low and the whitetail harvest comprises less than 1% of the statewide harvest. Current antlered deer hunting seasons are 20-27 days in length.

### Historical Perspective

Historically, white-tailed deer numbers have remained low in this DAU. Habitats are generally better suited for mule deer. In GMUs 22 and 25, whitetails have increased slightly in recent years but densities remain low. In GMUs 61 and 62A, whitetails are generally associated with riparian habitats along the Henry's Fork, Camas Creek and tributaries and densities have remained low and stable. In GMUs 43, 44, 48, 49 and 35, whitetail observations are rare.

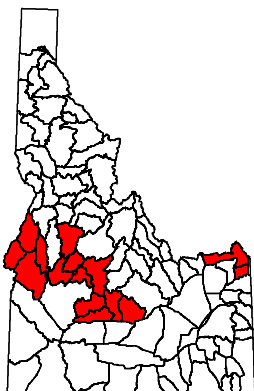
Historically, hunting seasons have considered white-tailed deer and mule deer together allowing that take of either species during the deer season.

### Management Direction

Potential for increasing white-tailed deer populations in DAU 6 is limited because of habitat and elevational constraints. In most of the DAU, future increases in whitetail numbers will be associated with riparian habitats along major drainages. Mule deer will continue to receive primary management emphasis and whitetail densities and harvest are expected to remain low.

### Objectives and Status

Criterion	Minimum	3-Year Average
Hunters	1,000	1,230
Hunter-days of recreation	2,100	2,627
% 5+ points	10%	5%



## DAU 6: Dryland Forest

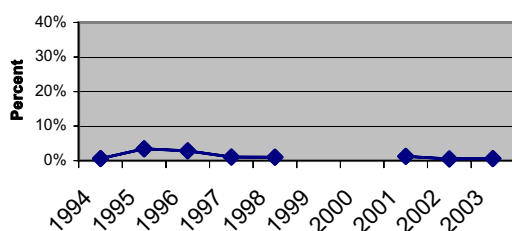
Units: 22, 25, 31, 32, 32A, 33, 34, 35, 36, 43, 44, 48, 49, 61, 62A

### 3-Year Averages

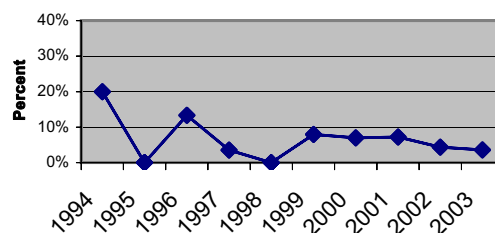
**Square Miles: 10,609**

Hunters per square mile:	2.2
Harvest per square mile:	0.0
Success Rate:	1%
Hunter-days/Whitetail	555
Antlered: % 5+ points	5%

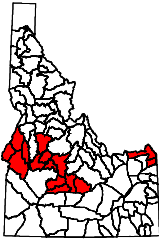
**Whitetail Success Rate**



**Antlered: % 5+ points**



Regular Deer Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hunters		18828	22344	16876	26248	24791	NA	NA	18855	27569	22673
Hunter Days		105001	133693	87453	124126	134419	NA	NA	68894	123201	86755
White-tailed Deer Harvest	Total	115	764	479	274	246	235	131	239	133	130
	Male	115	662	319	256	226	171	106	165	99	91
	Female	0	102	160	18	20	64	25	74	34	39
Whitetail Success Rate		1%	3%	3%	1%	1%	NA	NA	1%	0%	1%
Antlered: % 5+ points		20%	0%	13%	4%	0%	8%	7%	7%	4%	4%
White-tailed Deer Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hunters		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunter Days											
Harvest	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male										
	Female										
Whitetail Success Rate											
Antlered: % 5+ points											
Controlled Hunt Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Permits		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunter Days											
Harvest	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male										
	Female										
Success Rate											
Antlered: % 5+ points											
All Deer Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hunters		18828	22344	16876	26248	24791	NA	NA	18855	27569	22673
Hunter Days		105001	133693	87453	124126	134419	NA	NA	68894	123201	86755
White-tailed Deer Harvest	Total	115	764	479	274	246	235	131	239	133	130
	Male	115	662	319	256	226	171	106	165	99	91
	Female	0	102	160	18	20	64	25	74	34	39
Success Rate		1%	3%	3%	1%	1%			1%	0%	1%
Antlered: % 5+ points		20%	0%	13%	4%	0%	8%	7%	7%	4%	4%

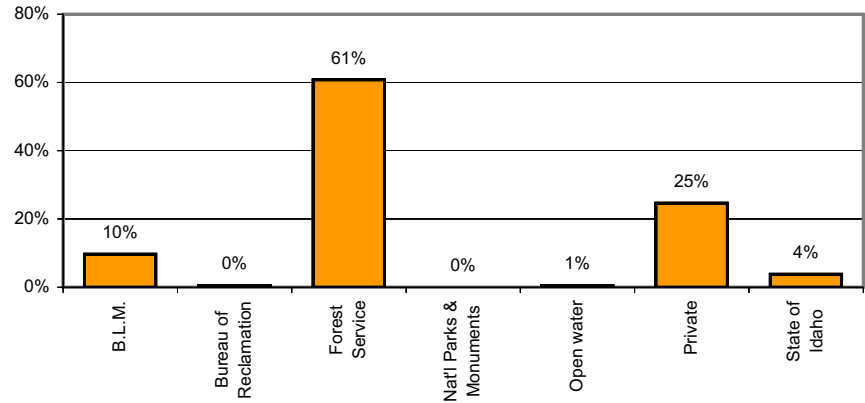


## DAU 6: Dryland Forest

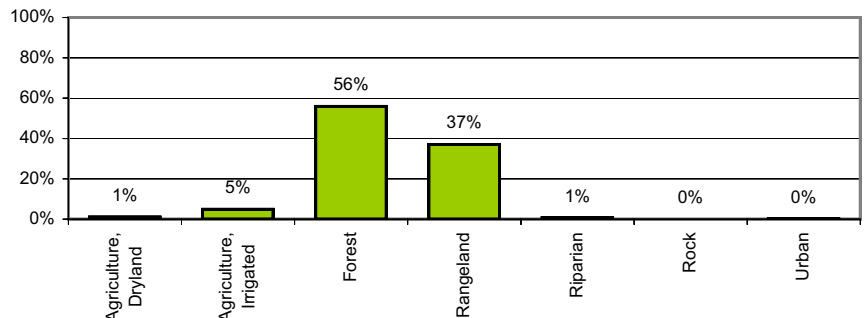
Units 22, 25, 31, 32, 32A, 33, 34, 35,  
36, 43, 44, 48, 49, 61, 62A

<b>Private ownership</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Major land use-</b>	<b>Forest</b>
<b>Potential Forest-</b>	<b>61%</b>
<b>Roadless Area -</b>	<b>31%</b>

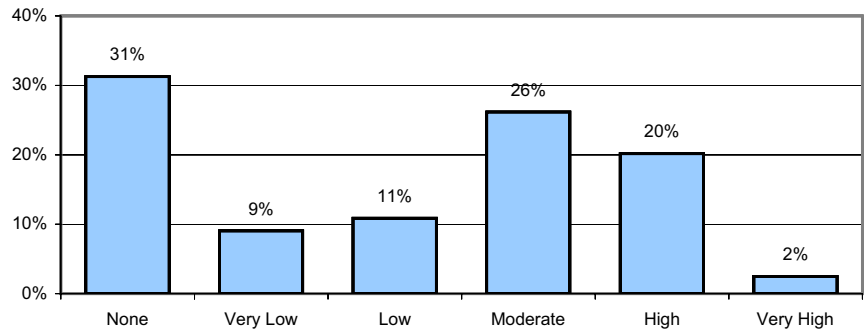
Land Owner	Acres
B.L.M.	659,429
Bureau of Reclamation	32,977
Forest Service	4,126,497
Nat'l Parks & Monuments	201
Open water	36,437
Private	1,674,024
State of Idaho	260,277



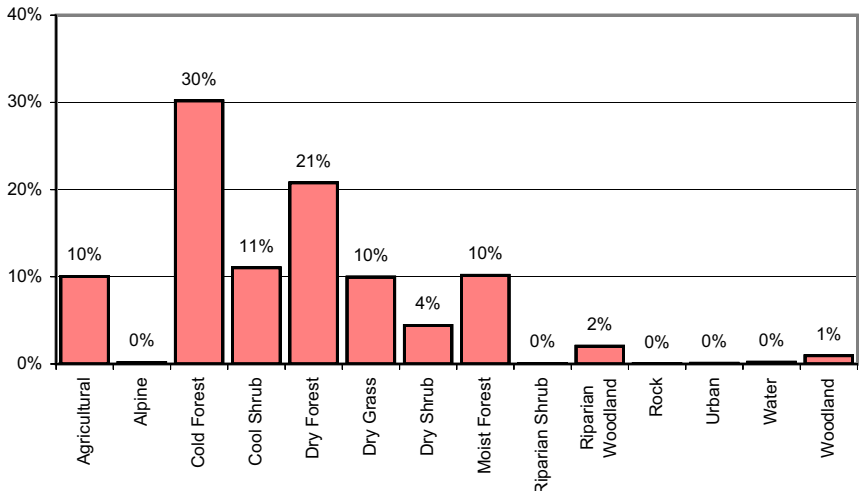
Land Use	Acres
Agriculture, Dryland	68,954
Agriculture, Irrigated	329,192
Forest	3,800,015
Rangeland	2,510,279
Riparian	48,272
Rock	1,160
Urban	9,797
Water	22,148



Road Density	Acres
None (< 0.2 mi./sq. mi.)	2,121,647
Very Low (0.02 to 0.1 mi./sq. mi.)	613,316
Low (0.1 to 0.7 mi./sq. mi.)	738,598
Moderate (0.7 to 1.7 mi./sq. mi.)	1,777,182
High (1.7 to 4.7 mi./sq. mi.)	1,368,964
Very High (>= 4.7 mi./sq. mi.)	168,773



Potential Vegetation	Acres
Agricultural	680,528
Alpine	11,614
Cold Forest	2,048,009
Cool Shrub	749,471
Dry Forest	1,409,736
Dry Grass	676,080
Dry Shrub	299,492
Moist Forest	689,918
Riparian Shrub	2,224
Riparian Woodland	138,379
Rock	741
Urban	5,436
Water	13,097
Woodland	63,753



## DAU 7: Southern Idaho

### Description

This DAU represents a wide spectrum of productivity. High productivity areas include major riparian areas such as the Snake River drainage, irrigated agricultural areas, and high elevation forested areas. Predominant vegetation types in this DAU include dry shrub, cool shrub, and agricultural types. Approximately 7% of the DAU is comprised of riparian woodland, riparian shrub, and cold forest vegetation types. Current vegetation communities are a result of agricultural practices, fire suppression, and urban development. Riparian areas have decreased and become fragmented due development and grazing practices.

Approximately 59% of the land in this DAU is publicly owned. The BLM administers a majority of the public land in this DAU. The USFS and IDL administer nearly equal amounts of the remaining public land. Other significant non-private ownership consists of Department of Energy land, primarily the INEEL site, and Bureau of Indian Affairs land, primarily the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. Approximately 34% of the DAU is composed of private land. Rangeland is the predominant land use comprising approximately 59% of the DAU. Other significant land uses include dryland agriculture, irrigated agriculture, and forested lands.

White-tailed deer distribution increased slowly in this DAU over the past several decades. Movement along riparian corridors has caused new accounts of white-tailed deer throughout the DAU. White-tailed deer population numbers have increased in some portions of the DAU, while they remain constant in other areas. White-tailed deer remain uncommon in this DAU and are secondary to mule deer in this DAU with regard to hunter preference.

There is some public concern regarding potential competition between the two deer species in the future.

### Historical Perspective

White-tailed deer populations in this DAU have historically been low to non-existent. There are no accounts of white-tailed deer in Osborne Russell's "Journal of a Trapper" during the 1800's. White-tailed deer populations remained for the most part non-existent until human settlement, which brought grazing and land clearing for agricultural purposes. These practices provided water and forage suitable for white-tailed deer.

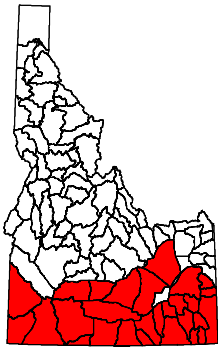
White-tailed deer and mule deer have historically been managed as a "single species." For the most part, this DAU continues to be managed this way, with the exception of some hunting opportunities specifically for white-tailed deer in the Upper Snake Region.

### Management Direction

Mule deer are more abundant than white-tailed in this DAU. Management emphasis will be to maintain white-tailed deer populations that support hunting recreation and hunter satisfaction at recent or higher levels.

### Objectives and Status

Criterion	Minimum	3-Year Average
Hunters	800	1,032
Hunter-days of recreation	1,600	1,987
% 5+ points	10%	14%



## DAU 7: Southern Idaho

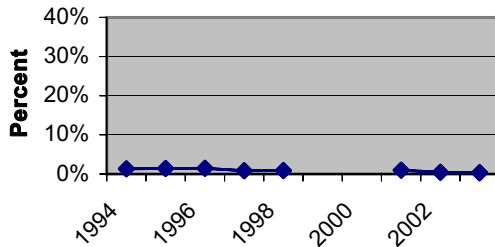
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### 3-Year Averages

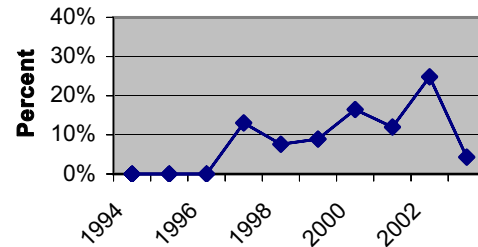
**Square Miles: 30,255**

Hunters per square mile: 0.8  
Harvest per square mile: 0.0  
Success Rate: 1%  
Hunter-days/Whitetail: 748  
Antlered: % 5+ points: 14%

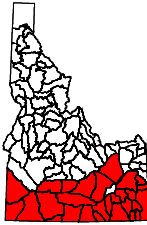
**Whitetail Success Rate**



**Antlered: % 5+ points**



Regular Deer Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hunters		16204	12104	18067	26921	20928	NA	NA	20365	29270	22308
Hunter Days		82739	67891	93888	140013	140266	NA	NA	76088	136774	81205
White-tailed Deer Harvest	Total	212	170	260	229	187	135	115	197	129	67
	Male	112	102	160	211	180	105	93	120	83	49
	Female	100	68	100	18	7	30	22	77	46	18
Whitetail Success Rate		1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	NA	NA	1%	0%	0%
Antlered: % 5+ points		0%	0%	0%	13%	8%	9%	16%	12%	25%	4%
White-tailed Deer Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hunters		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunter Days											
Harvest	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male										
	Female										
Whitetail Success Rate											
Antlered: % 5+ points											
Controlled Hunt Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Permits		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunter Days											
Harvest	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male										
	Female										
Success Rate											
Antlered: % 5+ points											
All Deer Tags		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hunters		16204	12104	18067	26921	20928	NA	NA	20365	29270	22308
Hunter Days		82739	67891	93888	140013	140266	NA	NA	76088	136774	81205
White-tailed Deer Harvest	Total	212	170	260	229	187	135	115	197	129	67
	Male	112	102	160	211	180	105	93	120	83	49
	Female	100	68	100	18	7	30	22	77	46	18
Success Rate		1%	1%	1%	1%	1%			1%	0%	0%
Antlered: % 5+ points		0%	0%	0%	13%	8%	9%	16%	12%	25%	4%

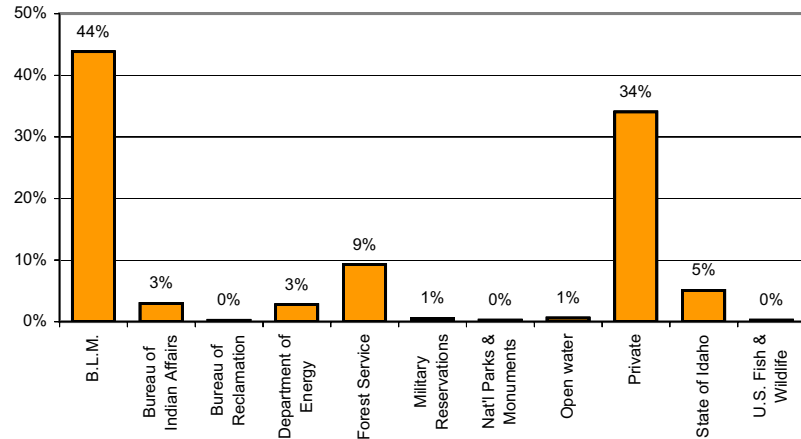


## DAU 7: Southern Idaho

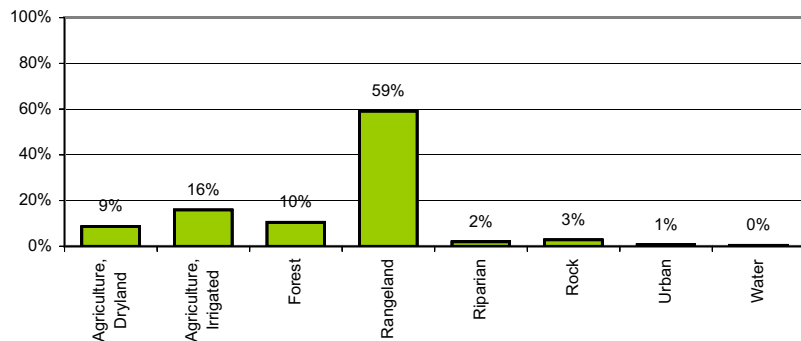
Units 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 47, 52, 52A, 53,  
54, 55, 56, 57, 63, 66, 66A, 69, 70,  
71, 72, 73, 73A, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78

<b>Private ownership</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>Major land use-</b>	<b>Rangeland</b>
<b>Potential Forest-</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Roadless Area -</b>	<b>12%</b>

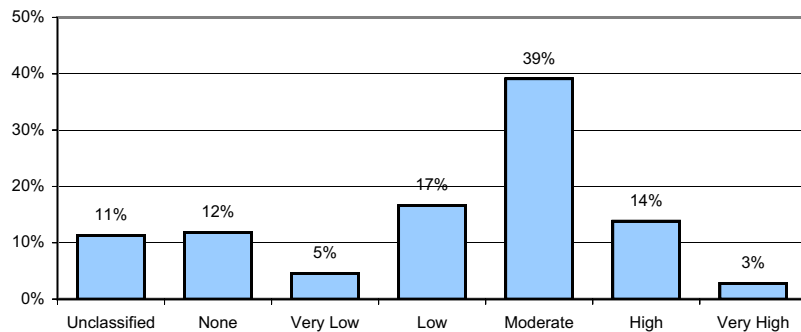
Land Owner	Acres
B.L.M.	8,490,352
Bureau of Indian Affairs	574,076
Bureau of Reclamation	48,550
Department of Energy	539,665
Forest Service	1,796,343
Military Reservations	104,823
Nat'l Parks & Monuments	52,940
Open water	116,985
Private	6,598,092
State of Idaho	988,197
U.S. Fish & Wildlife	53,015



Land Use	Acres
Agriculture, Dryland	1,666,408
Agriculture, Irrigated	3,082,927
Forest	2,027,253
Rangeland	11,456,344
Riparian	371,263
Rock	545,507
Urban	129,953
Water	82,772



Road Density	Acres
Not Classified	2,187,379
None (< 0.2 mi./sq. mi.)	2,292,889
Very Low (0.02 to 0.1 mi./sq. mi.)	881,673
Low (0.1 to 0.7 mi./sq. mi.)	3,219,038
Moderate (0.7 to 1.7 mi./sq. mi.)	7,575,367
High (1.7 to 4.7 mi./sq. mi.)	2,677,724
Very High (>= 4.7 mi./sq. mi.)	543,444



Potential Vegetation	Acres
Agricultural	3,520,571
Cold Forest	427,510
Cool Shrub	2,811,241
Dry Forest	443,953
Dry Grass	287,144
Dry Shrub	8,472,628
Moist Forest	247
Not Classified	2,174,981
Riparian Shrub	196,040
Riparian Woodland	815,884
Urban	21,888
Water	6,427
Woodland	186,602

